Concept for future generation coaches to protect the health of commuters

2720. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the proposal of an enterpreneur, who has developed concept for future generation coaches to protect the health of commuters in metropolitan cities;

(b) what is the feasibility of these coaches and whether it would be economical as compared to the other means of transport; and

(c) what are the details of these concepts and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands

2721. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a national plan to conserve lakes and wetlands in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the lakes which are most polluted and subject to environmental degradation; and

(d) whether Chilka lake is there in the Priority of the Ministry for undertaking catchment area treatment, desittation and weed and beauty of the lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL MATH): (a) and (b). A National Lake Conservation Plan has been formulated for conservation of lakes with particular emphasis on urban water-bodies. The activities under this Programme include formulation of perspective plans for conservation, prevention and control of pollution, catchment area treatment, desilting and weed control and other activities depending upon location specific conditions, So far, 21 lakhs have been identified under this Programme.

A National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs has been constituted to advise the Government on policy guidelines, preparation Of action plans and research aspects for conservation of wetlands in the country.

(c) Studies have been conducted on lakes which face severe problems of pollution and environmental degradation.

(d) Chilka Lake is one of the Wetlands selected for conservation and management under the Wetlands Programme. So far, an amount of Rs. 112 lakhs has been released to the State Government for catchment area treatment, habitat improvement, generating awareness etc.

Violation of Forest Conservation Act

2722. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council openly violated the Forest Conservation Act by destroying forest reserves in the core area of the Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary late in October in the name of development;

(b) whether it is a fact that the eco system in this high hill-game sanctuary is very fragile; and

(c) if so, what steps Government intend to take to prevent further violations of the Forest Conservation Act and depredations of the fragile